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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/688,447	10/17/2003	Cory O. Nykoluk	26/1145US(0.1)	1563

7590 09/03/2004

Clyde L. Smith
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7733 Forsyth Boulevard
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EXAMINER	
MAI, TRI M	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3727	

DATE MAILED: 09/03/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/688,447	NYKOLUK ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Tri M. Mai	3727	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/29/03.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the release mechanism and the locking mechanism in claim 10 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Double Patenting

2. Claims 1-29 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-14 of U.S. Patent No. 6,651,791. Although the

conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the claims in the present application as taught by claims 1-14 of U.S. Patent No. 6,651,791.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. Claims 10 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

It is unclear what is release mechanism and the locking mechanism in claim 10.

Regarding claim 21, "the arm portion ...abut the pivot axis" is confusing. "axis" refers to an imaginary line only.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102/103

4. Claims 1-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Williams et al (4538709). Williams teaches a towing member having an arm portion, a towing handle, a pivot mechanism 50a having a center bore passing through as claimed.

Regarding claim 10, note the mechanisms 52 and going through the pivot mechanism.

Regarding claim 15, the ends of portions 50 and 50b are flat as shown in Fig. 10.

Regarding claim 26, the pivot pin 50a is entirely inside the arm portion and the towing handle in the position in Fig. 10.

5. Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 11-14, 17-24, and 26-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Liang (5464080). Liang teaches a handle with an arm portion, a towing hande and a pivot mechanism in Fig. 2. Liang teaches a handle with an arm portion, a towing hande and a pivot mechanism in Fig. 2.

6. Claims 1-12, 14-16, 18-23, and 26-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Chen (6434790). Chen teaches a handle with an arm portion, a towing hande and a pivot mechanism in Fig. 3. Bloom teaches a handle with an arm portion, a towing hande and a pivot mechanism in Fig. 2.

7. Claims 13, 17, and 24-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen in view of Dinnendahl (3496795). Chen meets all claimed limitations except for the pin having a bore. Dinnendahl teaches that it is known in the art provide a hinge pin with a bore. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to provide a pin with a bore to save material.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tri M. Mai whose telephone number is (703)308-1038. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lee W Young can be reached on (703)308-2572. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Tri M. Mai 

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DEC 2 9 2003
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

(Use several sheets if necessary)

ATTY DOCKET NO.	SERIAL NO.
26/1145US (0.1)	10/688,447 TBA
Nykoluk, et al.	
FILING: 10/17/03	GROUP: TBA

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
T.M	A	387,198	12/09/97	Lehmann, et al.			
	B	395,361	06/23/98	Zoints, et al.			
	C	1,616,632	02/08/27	Mastrontonio			
	D	2,722,137	11/01/55	Russell			
	E	3,401,951	09/17/68	Bloom			
	F	3,496,795	02/24/70	Dinnendahl			
	G	3,606,372	09/17/68	Browning			
	H	3,799,568	03/26/74	Hager			
	I	4,368,835	01/18/83	Murphy			
	J	4,538,709	09/03/85	Williams			
T.M.	K	4,616,379	10/14/86	Lio			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

1		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES	TRANSLATION NO
T.M.	L	090221299	12/05/01	Taiwan				
	M	WO 98/07344	02/26/98	PCT				
	N	WO 01/52687	07/26/01	PCT				
T.M	O	WO 03/053186	07/03/03	PCT				

OTHER DOCUMENTS *(Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)*

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
T. Mai	09/01/04

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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(Use several sheets if necessary)

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26/1145US (0.1)	10/688,447 TBA
Nykoluk, et al.	
FILING: 10/17/03	GROUP: TBA

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
T.M.	P	4,621,404	11/1986	Browing			
	Q	4,838,396	06/13/89	Krenzel			
	R	5,002,304	03/26/91	Carrigan, Jr.			
	S	5,048,649	09/17/91	Carpenter, et al.			
	T	5,197,579	03/30/93	Bieber, et al.			
	U	5,207,440	05/04/93	Liang			
	V	5,323,887	06/28/94	Scicluna, et al.			
	W	5,328,122	07/12/94	Yamaguchi			
	X	5,330,037	07/19/94	Wang			
	Y	5,339,934	08/23/94	Liang			
T.M.	Z	5,353,900	10/11/94	Stilley			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES	TRANSLATION NO

OTHER DOCUMENTS *(Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)*

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26/1145US (0.1)	10/688,447 TBA
Nykoluk, et al.	
FILING: 10/17/03	GROUP: TBA

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*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
T.M.	AA	5,429,317	07/04/95	Yamaguchi			
	BB	5,431,428	07/111/95	Marchwiak, et al.			
	CC	5,464,080	11/07/95	Liang			
	DD	5,464,081	11/07/95	Zwanzig			
	EE	5,469,945	11/28/95	Jserng			
	FF	5,491,872	02/20/96	Tserng			
	GG	5,497,865	03/12/96	Yun-Pi			
	HH	5,547,053	08/20/96	Liang			
	II	5,564,538	10/15/96	Sadow			
	JJ	5,615,757	04/01/97	Chen			
T.M.	KK	5,630,521	05/20/97	Waddell, et al.			

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		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES	TRANSLATION NO

OTHER DOCUMENTS *(Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)*

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
T. Mai	09/01/04

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(Use several sheets if necessary)

ATTY DOCKET NO.	SERIAL NO.
26/1145US (0.1)	10/688,467 TBA
Nykoluk, et al.	
FILING: 10/17/03	GROUP: TBA

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
T.M.	LL	5,647,095	07/15/97	Takimonto			
	MM	5,689,854	11/25/97	Wang			
	NN	5,690,196	11/25/97	Wang			
	OO	5,706,921	01/13/98	Wang			
	PP	5,713,441	02/03/98	Chen			
	QQ	5,722,118	03/03/98	Hansen, et al.			
	RR	5,749,503	05/12/98	Wulf, et al.			
	SS	5,752,415	05/19/98	Tsai			
	TT	5,769,194	06/23/98	Chang			
	UU	5,813,504	09/29/98	Iny, et al.			
T.M.	VV	5,855,408	01/05/99	Rickabus			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES	TRANSLATION NO

OTHER DOCUMENTS *(Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)*

EXAMINER: T Mai — DATE CONSIDERED: 09/04/04

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

(use several sheets if necessary)

ATTY DOCKET NO.	SERIAL NO.
26/1145US (0.1)	10/688,417 TBA
Nykoluk, et al.	
FILING: 10/17/03	GROUP: TBA

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
TM	WW	5,865,281	02/02/99	Wang			
	XX	5,884,362	03/23/99	Tsai			
	YY	5,890,570	04/06/99	Sadow			
	ZZ	5,893,495	04/13/99	Godshaw, et al			
	AAA	5,901,822	05/11/99	Tu			
	BBB	5,908,093	06/01/99	Miyoshi			
	CCC	5,934,425	08/10/99	Sadow			
	DDD	5,943,936	08/31/99	Deliman, et al.			
	EEE	5,984,154	11/16/99	Scicluna			
	FFF	5,996,177	12/07/99	Cheng			
TM	GGG	6,009,598	01/04/00	Chang			

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		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES	TRANSLATION NO

OTHER DOCUMENTS *(Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)*

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
TM	09/01/04

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

(use several sheets if necessary)

Docket Number (Optional)	Application Number
26/1145US (0.1)	10/688,917 TBA
Applicant(s) Nykoluk, et al.	
Filing Date 10/17/03	**Group Art Unit** TBA

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
TM	HHH	6,032,771	03/07/00	Pedrini			
	III	6,041,900	03/28/00	Sadow, et al.			
	JJJ	6,059,301	05/09/00	Skarnulis			
	KKK	6,179,101	01/30/01	Lin			
	LLL	6,179,176	01/30/01	Saggese, et al.			
	MMM	6,193,033	02/27/01	Bogert			
	NNN	6,237,734	05/29/01	Chen			
	OOO	6,279,706	08/28/01	Mao			
	PPP	6,298,964	10/09/01	Sadow			
	QQQ	6,301,746	10/16/01	Myers, et al.			
TM	RRR	6,317,924	11/20/01	Gallager			

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	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	Translation YES	Translation NO

OTHER DOCUMENTS *(Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)*

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
T. Mai	09-01-04

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

(Use several sheets if necessary)

Docket Number (Optional)	Application Number
26/1145IS (0.1)	10/688,447 TBA
Applicant(s)	
Nykoluk, et al	
Filing Date	**Group Art Unit**
10/17/2003	TBA

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
T.M	SSS	6,332,242	12/25/01	Chen			
	TTT	6,434,790	08/20/02	Chen			
	UUU	6,464,245	10/15/02	Miles			
	VVV	6,508,344	01/2003	Lu			
	WWW	6,530,459	03/2003	Lu			
	XXX	2003/0085089	05/08/03	Lin, et al.			
	YYY	2003/0079950	05/01/03	Lin, et al.			
	ZZZ	2002/0050429	05/02/02	Nykoluk, et al.			
	AAAA	2003/0000785	01/02/03	Miller, et al.			
	BBBB	2003/0132079	07/17/03	Bellini			
T.M.	CCCC	D463,124 S	09/24/02	Godshaw, et al.			

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	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	Translation YES	Translation NO

OTHER DOCUMENTS *(Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)*

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
T. Mori	09-01-04

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP Section 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Notice of References Cited	Application/Control No. 10/688,447	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination NYKOLUK ET AL.	
	Examiner Tri M. Mai	Art Unit 3727	Page 1 of 1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Name	Classification
	A	US-6,651,791	11-2003	Nykoluk et al.	190/18A
	B	US-			
	C	US-			
	D	US-			
	E	US-			
	F	US-			
	G	US-			
	H	US-			
	I	US-			
	J	US-			
	K	US-			
	L	US-			
	M	US-			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Country	Name	Classification
	N	GB2337986	08-1999	United Kingdom	Lowenstein	A45C 13/26
	O					
	P					
	Q					
	R					
	S					
	T					

NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Include as applicable: Author, Title Date, Publisher, Edition or Volume, Pertinent Pages)
	U	
	V	
	W	
	X	

*A copy of this reference is not being furnished with this Office action. (See MPEP § 707.05(a).)
Dates in MM-YYYY format are publication dates. Classifications may be US or foreign.

(12) UK Patent Application (19) GB (11) 2 337 986 (13) A

(43) Date of A Publication 08.12.1999

(21) Application No 9921900.8

(22) Date of Filing 16.10.1996

Date Lodged 17.09.1999

(30) Priority Data
(31) 9603965 (32) 24.02.1996 (33) GB

(62) Divided from Application No 9621606.4 under Section 15(4) of the Patents Act 1977

(51) INT CL[6]
A45C 13/26 5/14

(52) UK CL (Edition Q)
B8P PH2 PW
A4G G5F1 G5T1

(56) Documents Cited
US 5482147 A US 5452778 A US 5374073 A
US 5295565 A US 5291978 A US 4618035 A

(58) Field of Search
UK CL (Edition Q) A4G, B8P PH2 PW
INT CL[6] A45C 5/00 5/14 13/22 13/26 13/28, B62B 1/12
ONLINE:WPI,EDOC,JAPIO

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(54) Abstract Title
Wheeled luggage

(57) A luggage trolley comprises an item of luggage (1) with wheels (2,3) at the lower end which permit it to be towed when tilted by a telescopable handle (4) at the upper end. A generally rigid housing (8) is secured to the luggage for containing or including the handle and at least one telescopable member (5,6) which is thereby substantially protected from mechanical damage by the housing. Alternatively, particularly for non-rigid luggage, the handle (50) may be borne by a housing (49) connected by a support member (53) to a strut (54) bearing the wheels (57).

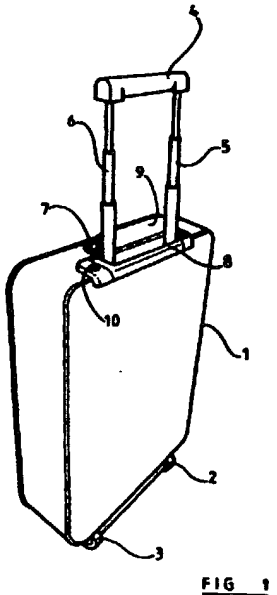


FIG 1

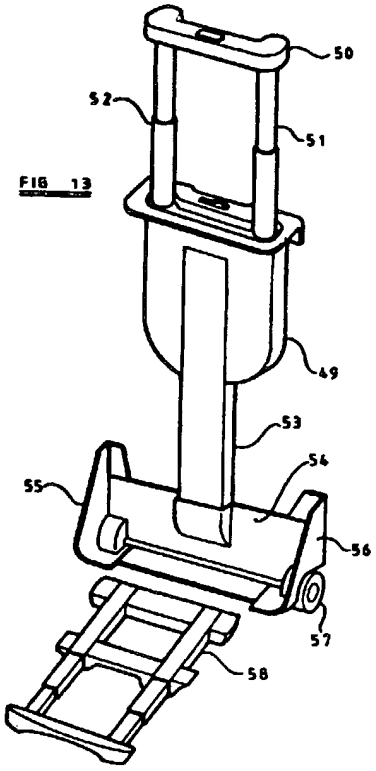
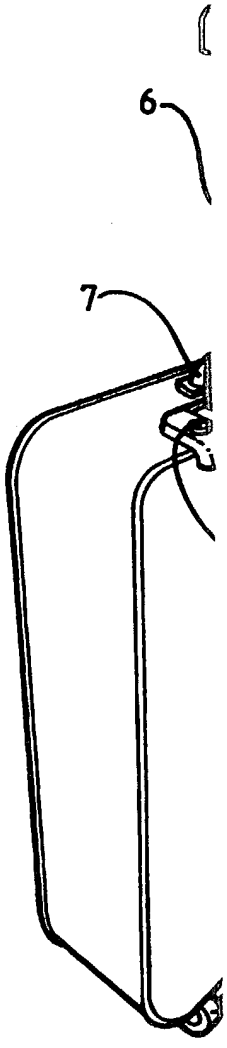


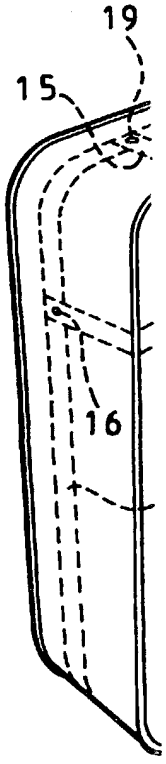
FIG 13

GB 2 337 986 A



IG 1

FIG 2



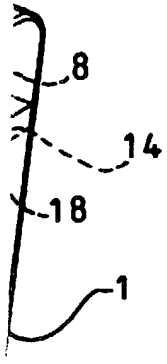
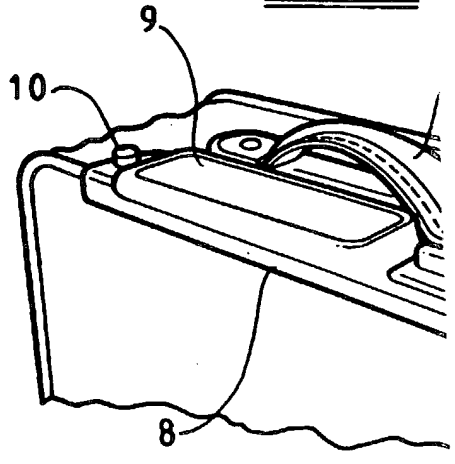


FIG 3



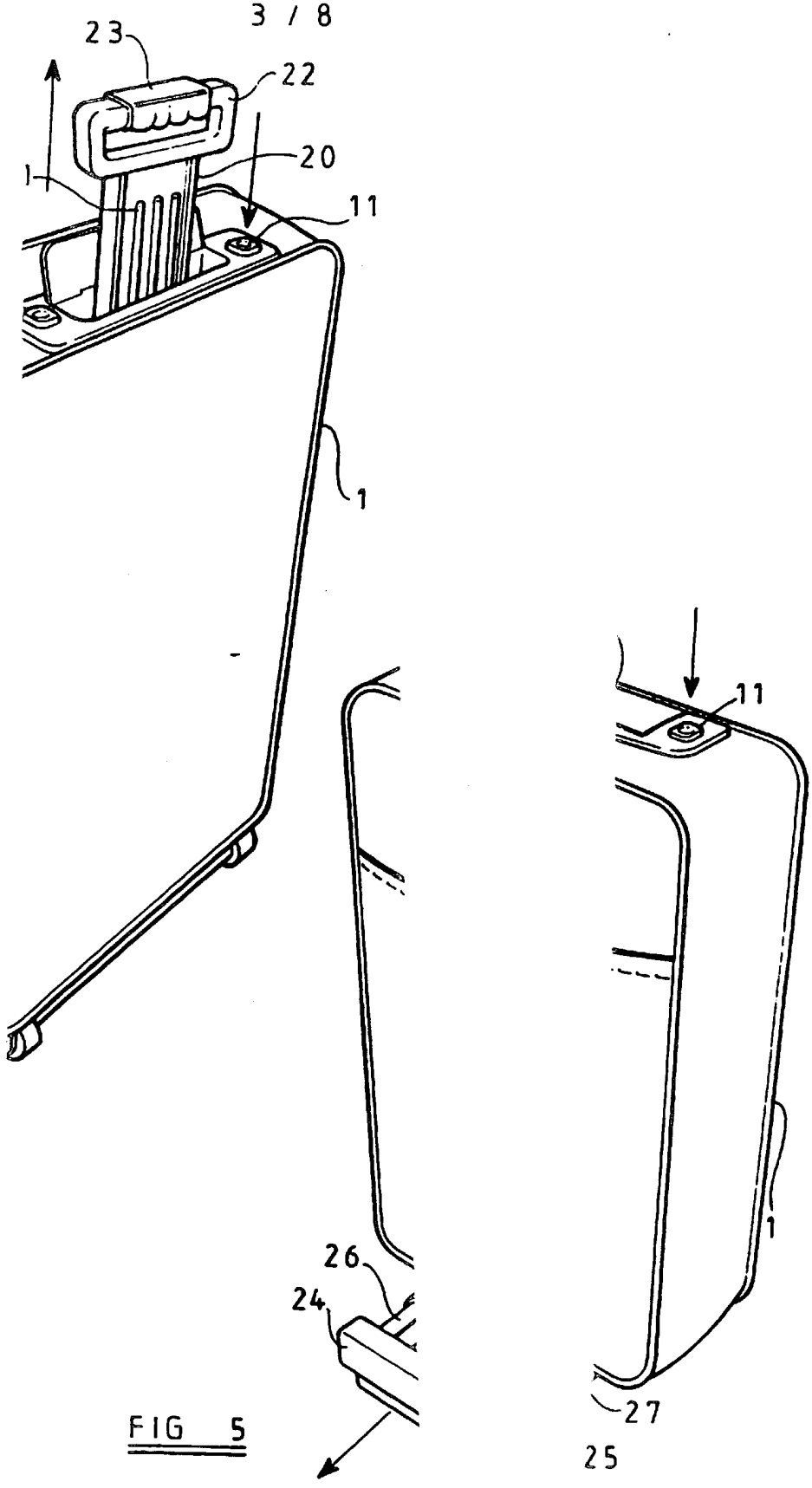


FIG 5

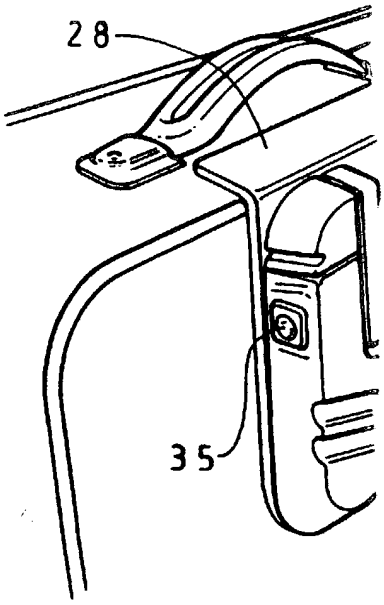


FIG 6

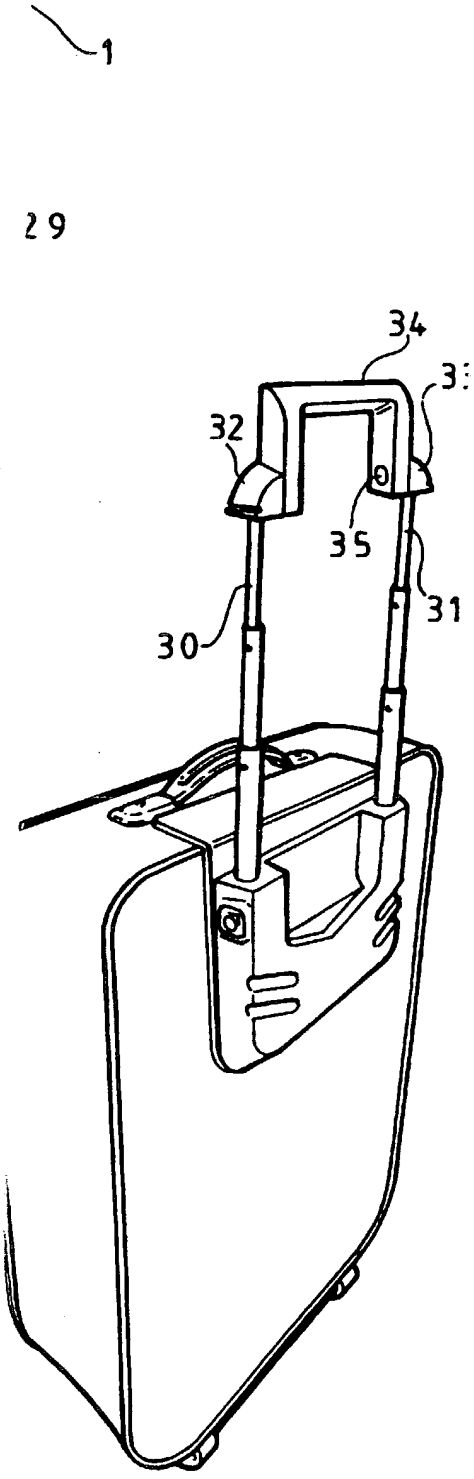


FIG 7

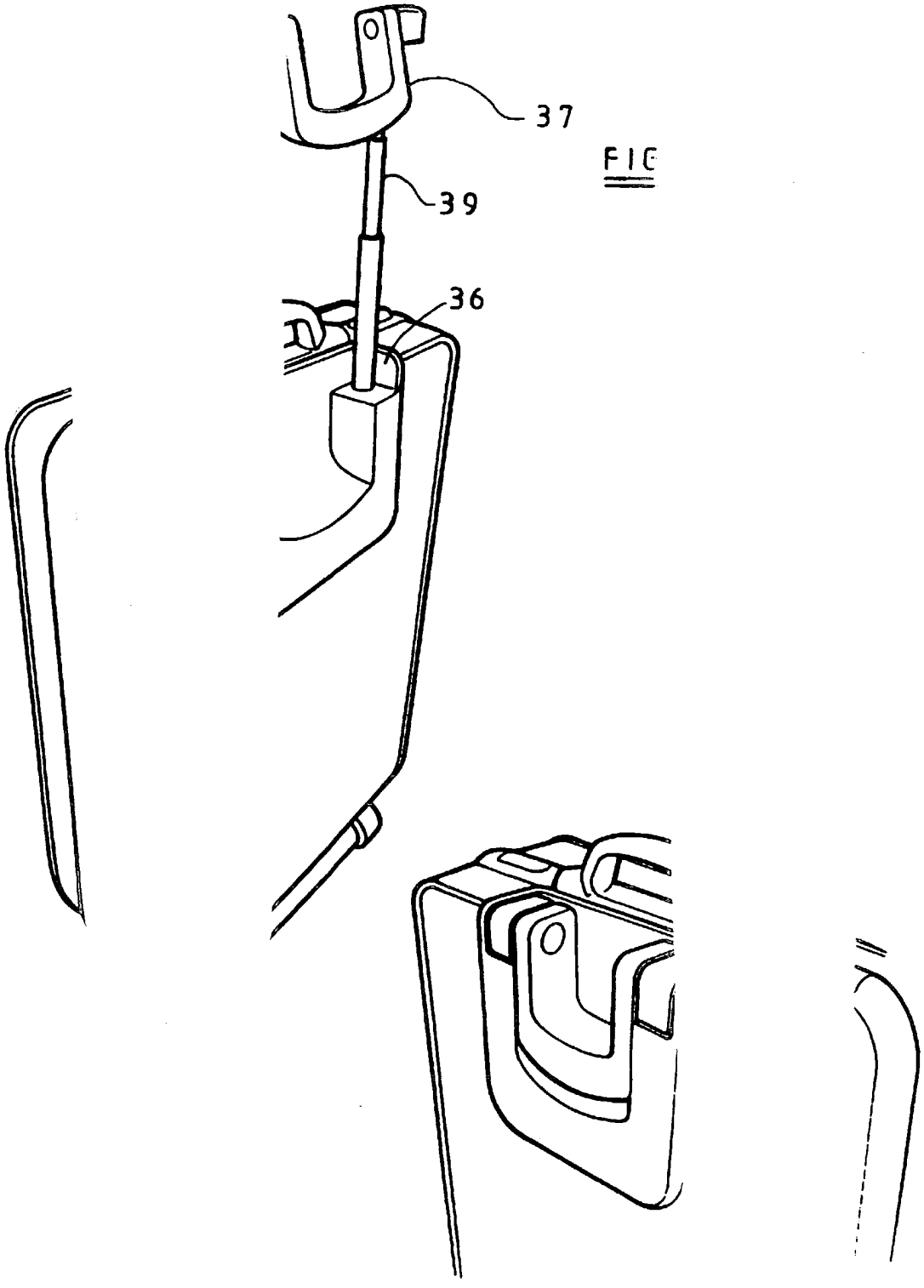


FIG 9

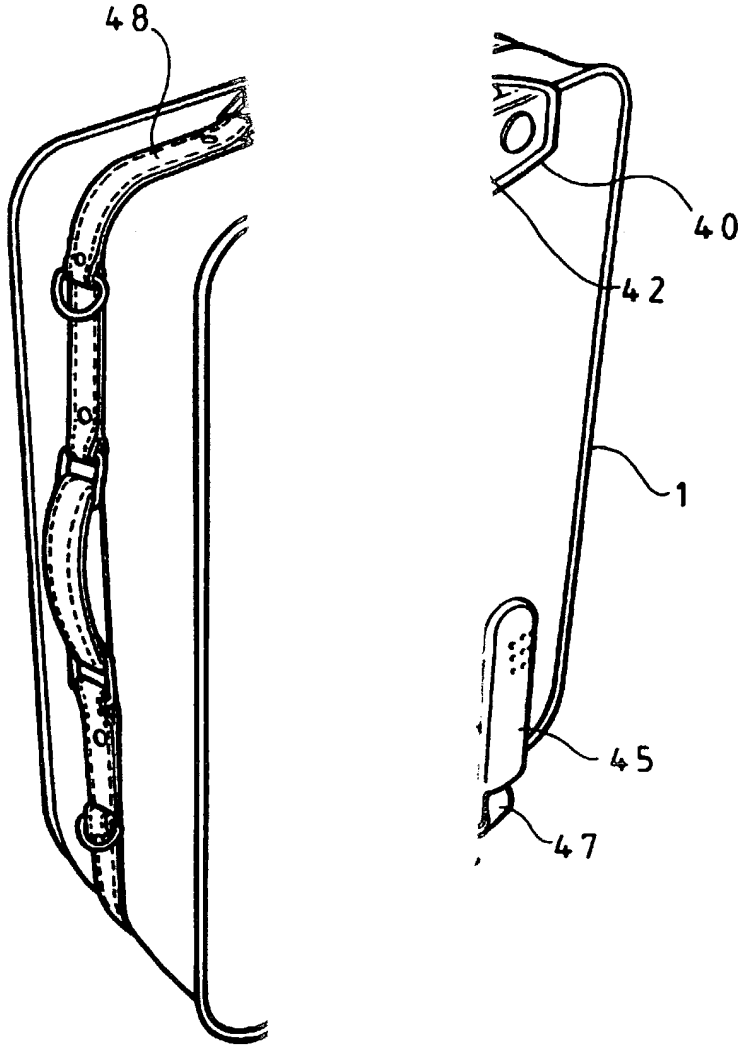
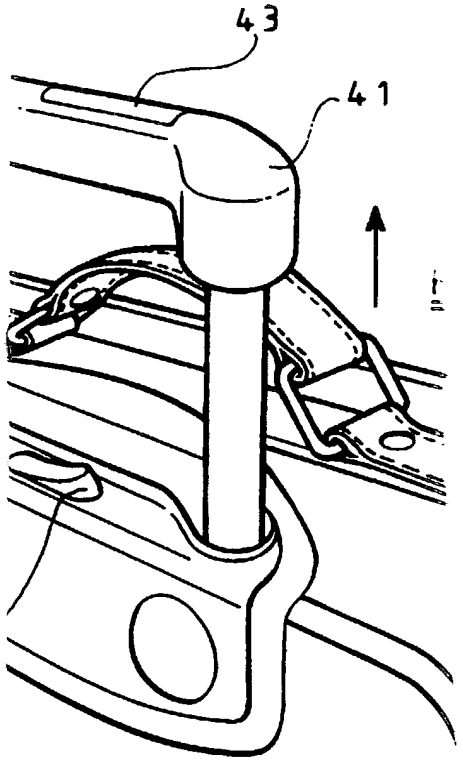
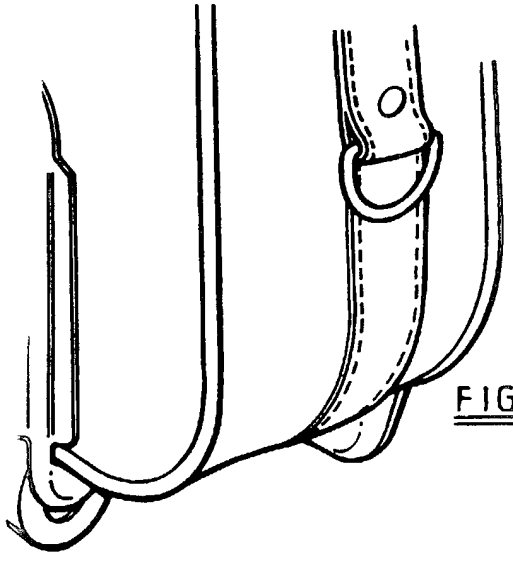


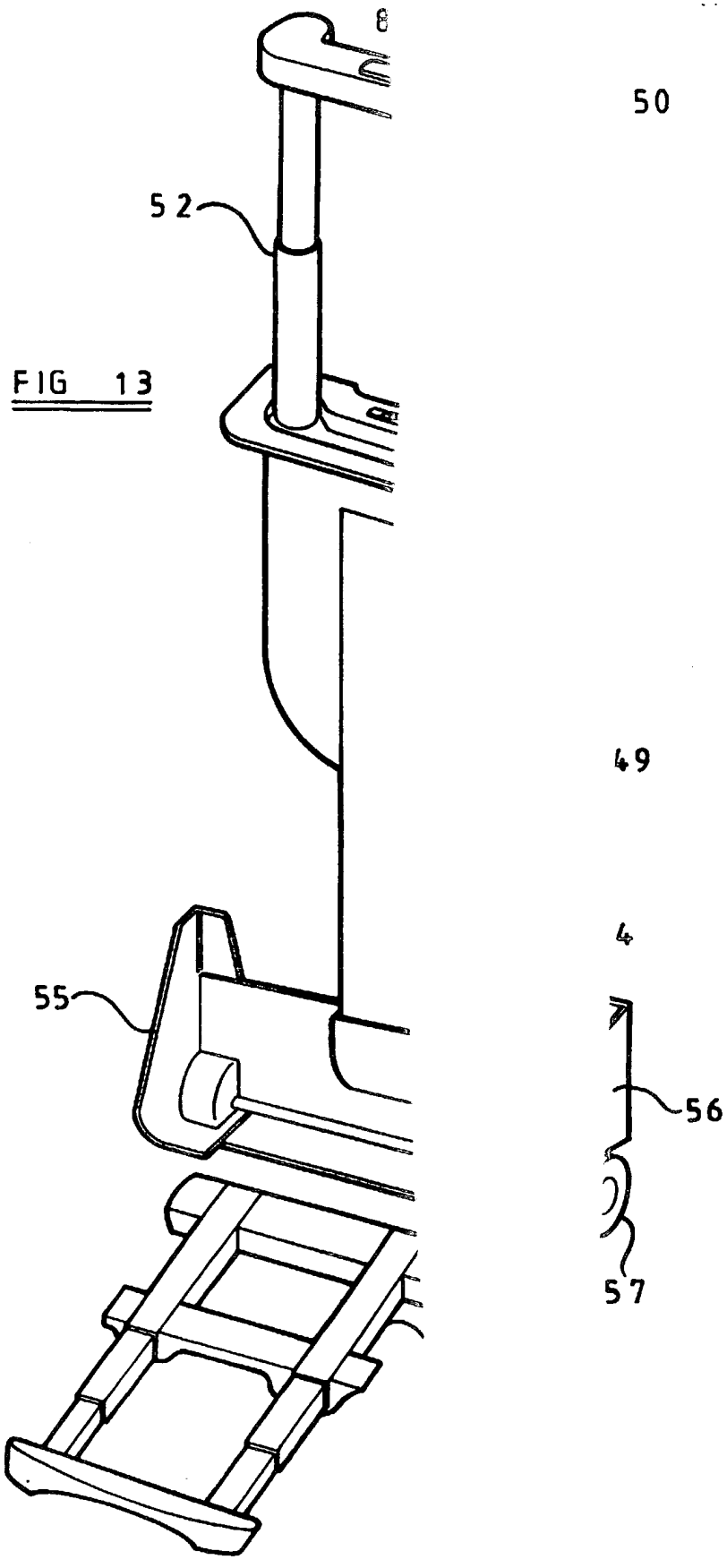
FIG 1





FIG

FIG 13



IMPROVEM NG TO A COLLAPSIBLE TROLLI

This inventio luggage trolleys of the type which i luggage, such corporates a conventional handle fo luggage, and a h the luggage may alternatively be t aid of a collap arrangement.

Collapsible lug ype may be either soft-sided or hard- typically made erial designed to withstand shock an prevent or inhib ents of the item of luggage. If the lu soft-sided variet normally attached to a rigid tubular other end of whi may be telescoped outwards for use stored inside or e luggage so that it can be carried by means of a conv ored away, for example, in the baggag compartment of certain known kinds of hard-sided lugg tubular frame is i nner wall of one side of the luggage so handle and the wi pper and lower ends of the luggage are externally. If the to be towed it is a simple matter to rem handle from its st elescope it outwardly so as to permit the easily tow the lugg nd by use of the wheels.

vantage of such known kinds of col they all rely upon the

of the handle to be telescoped outwa ed inwardly for

: light weight is essential the telesc the handle for this

: are usually made of aluminium or a material. Especially

he luggage is of the soft-side type an s are on the outside of

gage, they are prone to damage such difficult to telescope

lly into its usable position, or if the hilst it has been so

d, difficulty arises in restoring the ha ion.

ith hard-sided luggage this problem i d because carelessness

ing or unloading items from the inside esult in damage to the

members.

her disadvantage of such known types e trolleys is that the

r members are somewhat unsightly and nal space which may

vise be used for storing items inside the cing the amount of total

the luggage takes in a storage compartm ggage compartment of

roplane if the tubular members are on the

an object of the present invention to obviat e foregoing

dvantages.

According to provided a luggage trolley compris
luggage, whe ne side and at one end of the luggag
permit the lug ı tilted, and a collapsible handle sec
one telescopa ed at or near the end of the luggage
wheel means, ıe trolley comprises or includes a ge
housing adapte luggage for containing or including
the at least on , the handle being movable between
position inside sing, in which position the or each te
member is sub the housing, and an extended positio
handle may be em of luggage via the wheel means.

Preferably, the l id plastics material and includes an o
lid which is spri ed position so that when the or each te
member and the stored positions within the housing, the
visible when the alternative embodiment, the handle ma
permanently exp rface of the housing which may prefera
formed with rece the handle to be stored in a contiguous m
it does not protru g itself. Preferably, with such an arrange
housing also inclu esses to permit the user of the handle to g
move it from its sto its working position. Conveniently, the han

inge means so that it may be hinge sing and then pulled

along the or each telescopable mem

e housing is to be used with hard-si veniently be affixed

side thereof, or alternatively affixe he luggage adjacent

priately shaped aperture permitting t ch telescopable

to be moved from stored to open pos

ie item of luggage is of the soft-sided preferably be

to a rigid support member secured to f the luggage between

ing and the to provide rigidity. It will ecause the housing

ly protects the or each telescopable m ge caused to such a

pport member will not affect the opera

ention will now be described, by way o. reference to the

anying drawings in which:

Figure 1 is an upper perspective view fi ne side of a luggage

trolley in a first embodiment

Figu :w corresponding to that of Figure

gener andle means and how it is attachec

the it

Figur of the upper end of the luggage trol

in whi collapsed inwardly,

Figure at of Figure 1 but showing a second

of the i

Figure ng to that of Figure 4 but in which th

shown i

Figure 6 iment of the invention,

Figure 7 i of the luggage trolley of Figure 6 show

handle me and fully extended position,

Figure 8 is fourth embodiment of the invention,

Figure 9 is a p w of the luggage trolley of Figure 8 showing th

collapsible hanc red position relative to the housing,

ure 10 shows a perspective view o the invention,

ure 11 is a part perspective detail v ousing means of ,ure 10,

ure 12 is a part perspective detail sh g of the luggage of ure 10, and

;ure 13 is a part cut-out perspective v ment of the vention.

w to Figures 1 - 3, a first embodimen hown in which the : luggage trolley comprises a generally oft-sided (i.e. non- age (1) having at its lower end a pair o , (3) and at its upper apsible handle (4) secured to a pair of s rs (5), (6) each in the ree concentric tubes having coop rable) by which the (5), (6) are limited as to the exter t of the t in the manner as the drawings.

entional handle (7) is secured to the upper surfa... em of luggage (1) so may be carried rather than rolled by the wheels (2), (3 preferred.

The collapsible i embers (5), (6) are each receivable generally rigid h) which includes an openable upp hinged to the sid cent to the handle (7) and spring-b normally remain own in Figure 3.

The tubular mem by spring means (not shown) to the shown in Figures sed by means of a locking button (1 upper surface of t ion of which permits the collapsible and tubular memb d downwardly into the housing (8) that the lid (9) is a position as shown in Figure 3. Simi opposite upper sur) is a further button (11), depression unlocks the spring psible handle (4) and tubular membe to automatically mo spect to the item of luggage (1) to assu position shown in Fi

Turning now to Figu the means by which the housing (8) is from rocking relative item of luggage (1). This is achieved wit of spring steel bands (15) which are secured to the inner surface c item of luggage (1), resp the housing (8) and with respect to each oth means of rivets (16), (17), (18). Only some of the steel bands and rivets are shown

; for clarity but corresponding fea ...he opposite side

: trolley to that shown in section.

re be understood that the structure ...ls (12),(13),

the rigid plastics housing (8) is sui ... permit the

l tubular members (5), (6) to be pre ...ative to the

f the item of luggage (1). Since, wh ...ar members (5),

ted by means of the rigid plastics ho ...caused through

: of the item of luggage (1), such as t ...), will not affect

ility of the luggage trolley to operat ...d of it.

to Figures 4 and 5 there is shown an a ...t of that shown

to 3 in which in this instance the item ... (1) has

andle means corresponding to that sho ...out in which only

able member (20) is provided in which ...gments are

attened concentric tubes, on the major su ...ich are

as (21) which improve the strength of the te ...er (20). In this

nt the collapsible handle (22) is in the shape ...ontally disposed

which incorporates in the central portion there ... space for the

fing ...f one hand of the user of the luggage to be inserted ...o incorporates on the upper portion thereof a rubber grip (23) having indentations corresponding to those of a hand. Apart from these differences the collapsible handle means operates in the same

way as that shown ssion of the locking button (10)
handle (22) and tel assume the position shown in Fig
button (11) permitt of the reverse sequence whereby
(22) and telescopab me a position inside the housing a
(9) assume its close igure 5.

In Figure 5 there is al rement of the second embodiment c
invention in which a : bottom rail (24) is secured to tele
members (25), (26) e circular concentric tubes and for ac
strength there is a cen /) in the form of a pair of generally f
tubes .

Between the button (11)) is a cable (not shown) which provides
the bottom rail (23) may a its stored to the open position shown i
Figure 5 when button (11

Turning now to Figures 6 ar vn a further alternative embodiment of the
invention in which in this instar apsible handle means is secured to the outside
of the item of soft-sided luggage o shaped plate (28) secured by rivets to steel
bands inside the item of luggage (1) in similar manner to that shown in Figure 2. In this
embodiment the plastic housing (29) has a generally U-shaped appearance with each arm
of the "U" being used to store telescopable members (30), (31), shown in Figure 7. At

ıds of each of the tubular membc e hinge joints (32),

ın each of which is swivellably se e (34) by means of

ıge pins (35) (only one of which 29) includes a

eceiving the handle (34) in a store igure 6, in which

may be easily locked in place by l hown). A release

is provided to allow the handle (3 and assume the

ıown in Figure 7 once the telescopal are fully extended.

w to Figures 8 and 9 there is shown ive embodiment of

ion specifically adapted for hard-sid generally

ured from rigid plastics. In this embc e handle means

s a housing (36) generally similar to t 6 and 7 but secured

correspondingly shaped aperture in the alf of the item of

(1). A swivellable handle (37) is again pective ends of

nembers of (38), (39) and arranged such tored position shown

e 9 the handle (37) assumes a contiguous p to the rest of the

(36). On the inside of the luggage (1) the p ing (36) not shown

s a smooth plastics cover which protects the tub bers (38), (39) from

e which may otherwise occur when loading or unloa items from the luggage

Because, in this embodiment, the item of luggage (1) is made of a hard-sided plastics material its inherent rigidity is sufficient to obviate the need to secure the housing (36) to other reinforcing means such as steel bands etc. This is particularly

advantageou s therefore essentially independe

and the rest o : it is in modular form, damage t

the luggage (bility.

In Figures 10 bodiment of the invention is shown

suitcase (1) is astics housing (40), again incorpo

handle means (sed into its open position as shown

when not in us position shown in Figure 10 by m

releasable catc switch (42) which, when pressed, a

releases the han wn in figure (11). On the upper surf

handle (41) is a 43) such that to move the handle (4

closed position it to press the button (43) and push dow

(41) into its close locked in place.

A further feature of m in Figures 10 - 12 is a pair of elongate

plastics wheel housi the lower end of the suitcase which provide

functions, the first bei protection for respective wheels (46), (47). Th

second function serves to pr e side of the suitcase (1) shown from damage when

is being rolled up or down stairs nce the wheel housings (44), (45) are sufficiently long

enough to ensure that when the suitcase (1) is tilted they protect it from shock or

abrasion by contact with the leading edges of the stairs.

r feature of the embodiment sho continuous strap

/ rivets to the outer side panels of ating handles and

vhich the suitcase (1) may be carri urations or to

articles may be attached.

there is shown a further alternativ vention but in

larity the suitcase is not shown. In th ective plastics

) for a handle (50) supported on tel 52) includes at the

hereof an elongated plastics suppor le rigidity to the

on rigid structure of the suitcase. Th d support member

nto a correspondingly shaped aperture aped transverse

ut (54) on each end of which are respe ousings (55), (56)

ng respective wheels (57), only one of v ill be seen in this

ent that the structure defined by the eleme spond to a

onal two-wheeled trolley even though it is i structure defined by

wise conventional item of luggage. A bottom so provided which is

to the underside of the item of luggage and ma ped outwardly so that

al items of luggage may be carried as required thereon.

The invention in its several embodiments thus provides an elegant and simple solution to problems associated with damage to collapsible tubular members which are necessary in order to make it easy for the user to tow items of luggage via wheels. In particular, the use of a modular housing which may be fixed inside or outside the item of luggage

provides tha ed to fit luggage of all shapes an
consequent ı nufacturing costs, whilst at the s
permitting th us component parts and facilitati
in the event

CL

A luggage trolley adapted to [illegible] luggage comprising [illegible]lly "L"-shaped strut on each end [illegible] wheel housings and [illegible] a rigid support member secured to [illegible] transversely to the [illegible]inal axis thereof, and a generally rigid [illegible] the support member [illegible] from the strut containing or includ[illegible] ast one telescopable [illegible], the handle being moveable betwee[illegible] le or adjacent to the [illegible], in which position the or each telescop[illegible] antially protected by [illegible]using, and an extended position in wh[illegible] used for towing the [illegible] luggage via the wheel means.

A luggage trolley comprising an [illegible] wheel means disposed [illegible]e side and at one end of the luggage and adap[illegible] e luggage to be towed [illegible]n tilted, and a collapsible handle secured to a [illegible] lescopable member and disposed at or near the end of the luggage remote from the wheel means, CHARACTERISED IN THAT the trolley comprises or includes a generally rigid housing adapted to be secured to the luggage for containing or including the handle and the at least one telescopable member, the handle being moveable between a stored position inside or adjacent to the housing, in which position the or each telescopable member is substantially protected by the housing, and an extended position in which the handle may be used for towing the item of luggage via the wheel means.

3. A luggage trolley according to Claim 1or Claim 2 further characterised in

that the able upper lid which is spring bia
position s lescopable member and the handle a
positions e not visible when the lid is closed

4. ccording to Claim 2 or Claim 3 furt
in that the h the outer surface of the housing.

5. ccording to Claim 4 in which the l
recesses to dle to grasp it and move it from its sto
its working

6. according to any preceding claim in whic
includes hinge be hinged outwards from the housing and
upwards along th member.

7. A luggage tr cy according to any preceding claim in which the housing is connected to the wheel means by a rigid support member to provide rigidity for the item of luggage.

8. A luggage trolley according to Claim 1 in which the support member comprises a substantially rigid plastics tube.

9. A luggage trolley substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to and as shown in the accompanying drawings.

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In support of its 21st Century Strategic Plan goal of increased patent e-Government, beginning in June 2004, the United States Patent and Trademark Office (Office or USPTO) will begin the phase-in of its E-Patent Reference program and hence will: (1) **provide downloading capability of the U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications cited in Office actions** via the E-Patent Reference feature of the Office's Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system; and (2) **cease mailing paper copies of U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications with Office actions** (in applications and during reexamination proceedings) except for citations made during the international stage of an international application under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT). In order to use the new E-Patent Reference feature applicants must: (1) obtain a digital certificate and software from the Office; (2) obtain a customer number from the Office; and (3) properly associate patent applications with the customer number. Alternatively, copies of all U.S. patents and patent application publications can be accessed without a digital certificate from the USPTO web site, from the USPTO Office of Public Records, and from commercial sources. The Office will continue the practice of supplying paper copies of foreign patent documents and non-patent literature with Office actions. Paper copies of cited references will continue to be provided by the USPTO for international applications during the international stage.

Schedule

June 2004	TCs 1600, 1700, 2800 and 2900
July 2004	TCs 3600 and 3700
August 2004	TCs 2100 and 2600

All U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications are available on the USPTO web site. However, a simple system for downloading the cited U.S. patents and patent application publications has been established for applicants, called the E-Patent Reference system. As E-Patent Reference and Private PAIR require participating applicants to have a customer number, retrieval software and a digital certificate, all applicants are strongly encouraged to contact the Patent Electronic Business Center to acquire these items. To be ready to use this system by June 1, 2004, contact the Patent EBC as soon as possible by phone at 866-217-9197 (toll-free), 703-305-3028 or 703-308-6845 or electronically via the Internet at ebc@uspto.gov.

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Summary

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (Office or USPTO) plans in the near future to (1) cease mailing copies of U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications (US patent references) with Office actions except for citations made during the international stage of an international application under the Patent Cooperation Treaty and those made during reexamination proceedings; and (2) provide electronic access to, with convenient downloading capability of, the US patent references cited in an Office action via the Office's private Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system which has a new feature called "E-Patent Reference." Before ceasing to provide copies of U.S. patent references with Office actions, the Office shall test the feasibility of the E-Patent Reference feature by conducting a two-month pilot project starting with Office actions mailed after December 1, 2003. The Office shall evaluate the pilot project and publish the results in a notice which will be posted on the Office's web site (www.USPTO.gov) and in the Patent Official Gazette (O.G.). In order to use the new E-Patent Reference feature during the pilot period, or when the Office ceases to send copies of U.S. patent references with Office actions, the applicant must: (1) obtain a digital certificate from the Office; (2) obtain a customer number from the Office, and (3) properly associate applications with the customer number. The pilot project does not involve or affect the current Office practice of supplying paper copies of foreign patent documents and non-patent literature with Office actions. Paper copies of references will continue to be provided by the USPTO for searches and written opinions prepared by the USPTO for international applications during the international stage and for reexamination proceedings.

Description of Pilot Project to Provide Electronic Access to Cited U.S. Patent References

On December 1, 2003, the Office will make available a new feature, E-Patent Reference, in the Office's private PAIR system, to allow more convenient downloading of U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications. The new feature will allow an authorized user of private PAIR to download some or all of the U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications cited by an examiner on form PTO-892 in Office actions, as well as U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications submitted by applicants on form PTO/SB08 (1449) as part of an IDS. The retrieval of some or all of the documents may be performed in one downloading step with the documents encoded as Adobe Portable Document format (.pdf) files, which is an improvement over the current page-by-page retrieval capability from other USPTO systems

Steps to Use the New E-Patent Reference Feature During the Pilot Project and Thereafter

Access to private PAIR is required to utilize E-Patent Reference. If you don't already have access to private PAIR, the Office urges practitioners, and applicants not represented by a practitioner, to take advantage of the transition period to obtain a no-cost USPTO Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) digital certificate, obtain a USPTO customer number, associate all of their pending and new application filings with their customer number, install no-cost software (supplied by the Office) required to access private PAIR and E-Patent Reference feature, and make appropriate arrangements for Internet access. The full instructions for obtaining a PKI digital certificate are available at the Office's Electronic Business Center (EBC) web page at: <http://www.uspto.gov/ebc/downloads.html>. Note that a notarized signature will be required to obtain a digital certificate.

To get a Customer Number, download and complete the Customer Number Request form, PTO-SB125, at: http://www.uspto.gov/web/forms/sb0125.pdf. The completed form can then be transmitted by facsimile to the Electronic Business Center at (703) 308-2840, or mailed to the address on the form. If you are a registered attorney or patent agent, then your registration number must be associated with your customer number. This is accomplished by adding your registration number to the Customer Number Request form. A description of associating a customer number with an application is described at the EBC web page at: http://www.uspto.gov/ebc/registration_pair.html.

The E-Patent Reference feature will be accessed using a new button on the private PAIR screen. Ordinarily all of the cited U.S. patent and U.S. patent application publication references will be available over the Internet using the Office's new E-Patent Reference feature. The size of the references to be downloaded will be displayed by E-Patent Reference so the download time can be estimated. Applicants and registered practitioners can select to download all of the references or any combination of cited references. Selected references will be downloaded as complete documents as Adobe Portable Document Format (.pdf) files. For a limited period of time, the USPTO will include a copy of this notice with Office actions to encourage applicants to use this new feature and, if needed, to take the steps outlined above in order to be able to utilize this new feature during the pilot and thereafter.

During the two-month pilot, the Office will evaluate the stability and capacity of the E-Patent Reference feature to reliably provide electronic access to cited U.S. patent and U.S. patent application publication references. While copies of U.S. patent and U.S. patent application publication references cited by examiners will continue to be mailed with Office actions during the pilot project, applicants are encouraged to use the private PAIR and the E-Patent Reference feature to electronically access and download cited U.S. patent and U.S. patent application publication references so the Office will be able to objectively evaluate its performance. The public is encouraged to submit comments to the Office on the usability and performance of the E-Patent Reference feature during the pilot. Further, during the pilot period registered practitioners, and applicants not represented by a practitioner, are encouraged to experiment with the feature, develop a proficiency in using the feature, and establish new internal processes for using the new access to the cited U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications to prepare for the anticipated cessation of the current Office practice of supplying copies of such cited

references. The Office plans to continue to provide access to the E-Patent Reference feature during its evaluation of the pilot.

Comments

Comments concerning the E-Patent Reference feature should be in writing and directed to the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at the USPTO by electronic mail at eReference@uspto.gov or by facsimile to (703) 308-2840. Comments will be posted and made available for public inspection. To ensure that comments are considered in the evaluation of the pilot project, comments should be submitted in writing by January 15, 2004.

Comments with respect to specific applications should be sent to the Technology Centers' customer service centers. Comments concerning digital certificates, customer numbers, and associating customer numbers with applications should be sent to the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at the USPTO by facsimile at (703) 308-2840 or by e-mail at EBC@uspto.gov.

Implementation after Pilot

After the pilot, its evaluation, and publication of a subsequent notice as indicated above, the Office expects to implement its plan to cease mailing paper copies of U.S. patent references cited during examination of non provisional applications on or after February 2, 2004; although copies of cited foreign patent documents, as well as non-patent literature, will still be mailed to the applicant until such time as substantially all applications have been scanned into IFW.

For Further Information Contact

Technical information on the operation of the IFW system can be found on the USPTO website at http://www.uspto.gov/web/patents/ifw/index.html. Comments concerning the E-Patent Reference feature and questions concerning the operation of the PAIR system should be directed to the EBC at the USPTO at (866) 217-9197. The EBC may also be contacted by facsimile at (703) 308-2840 or by e-mail at EBC@uspto.gov.

Date 12/1/03

Nicholas P. Godici

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